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Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 30 September 2004, at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ping (President of the General Assembly) ..... (Gabon)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.35 a.m.

Agenda item 8: Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries" (A/59/231)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to a request by a number of Member States for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries", contained in document A/59/231.

2. The representative of São Tome and Principe had indicated the desire to address the Committee on that matter under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

3. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ferreira (São Tome and Principe) took a place at the Committee table.*

4. **Mr. Ferreira** (São Tome and Principe), speaking also on behalf of the other members of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Timor-Leste, said that the Community had been created in 1996 and had become an observer to the United Nations in 1999. It brought together 200 million people from eight countries, which were key players in the international arena and regional organizations. One of its objectives was to broaden cooperation among members, particularly within the framework of international organizations, in order to give greater expression to their common interests and needs. The Community was involved in many joint initiatives, including activities to combat HIV/AIDS and malaria. In the political arena, it had participated in the electoral process in Guinea-Bissau and had provided assistance to the rebuilding of the justice and public administration sectors in Timor-Leste.

5. *Mr. Ferreira (São Tome and Principe) withdrew.*

6. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional sub-item in the agenda as a sub-item of agenda item 56, under Heading I.*

7. **The Chairman** recalled that the General Assembly would consider agenda item 56, "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", directly in plenary meeting.

8. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional sub-item should also be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Economic Community of West African States in the General Assembly" (A/59/232)

9. **The Chairman** drew attention to the request by a number of Member States for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Economic Community of West African States in the General Assembly", contained in document A/59/232.

10. **Mr. Effah-Apenteng** (Ghana), speaking on behalf of the members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), said that the request for observer status was a natural extension of the deepening relationship between ECOWAS and the United Nations. ECOWAS had been formed to accelerate the economic and social development of West Africa, and through its institutions, it had promoted cooperation and development in many fields of economic activity from agriculture to finance and culture. Its goal was to increase economic stability and foster closer relationships among its members in order to contribute to the development of Africa as a whole.

11. ECOWAS had played a pioneering role in establishing regional mechanisms for peace and security through its mediation and peacekeeping operations, which had contributed to conflict resolution in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and Côte d'Ivoire. As part of its conflict prevention mechanism, it had put in place a regional early warning system and a high-level mediation organ. ECOWAS cooperated with the full range of agencies and entities of the United Nations system. It was against the backdrop of converging organizational goals that the request for inclusion of the item was being made.

12. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda, under Heading I.*

13. **The Chairman** drew attention to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/195 concerning the

criteria and procedures for granting observer status in the General Assembly.

14. **The Committee** *decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be allocated to the Sixth Committee*

Allocation of agenda item 109

15. **The Chairman** recalled that at its 2nd meeting, the Committee had decided to defer consideration of the allocation of item 111 of the draft agenda. He had been informed that agreement had now been reached on the matter.

16. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that agenda item 109 (Programme planning) should be allocated to the Third Committee in relation to programme 19 (Human rights) of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007.*

Report of the Economic and Social Council

17. **The Chairman** recalled that the General Assembly, pursuant to its resolution 58/316, had decided that agenda item 12 entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" would be considered in its entirety in plenary meeting. He suggested that, in order not to duplicate debates in the Main Committees, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council that were under agenda items already allocated to the Main Committees should be considered by the Committees concerned for final action by the Assembly.

18. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 9.55 a.m.